



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
VIRGINIA FIELD OFFICE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Winter Wheat Production Forecast down 15 percent from 2014

Virginia farmers expect to harvest 15.1 million bushels of **winter wheat** during 2015 according to the Virginia Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The expected crop for 2015 would be down 15 percent from the previous year. The forecast was based on crop conditions as of July 1 and decreased 1 percent from the June forecast. Growers expect a yield of 67.0 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushels from 2014 and down 1.0 bushels from June. Farmers seeded 260,000 acres last fall with 225,000 acres to be harvested for grain. Acres for other uses totaled 35,000 acres and will be used as cover crop for tobacco or cut as silage or hay. Winter wheat harvest in the State had reached 71 percent for the week ending July 5. The pace was equal to last year, but behind the five-year average of 85 percent.

Winter wheat production for the **Nation** was forecast at 1.46 billion bushels, down 3 percent from the June 1 forecast and up 6 percent from 2014. Based on July 1 conditions, the United States yield is forecast at 43.7 bushels per acre, down 0.8 bushels from last month and up 1.1 bushels from last year. The expected area to be harvested for grain or seed totals 33.3 million acres, up 3 percent from last year.

Barley producers in **Virginia** forecast harvesting 1.52 million bushels for 2015, down 31 percent from last year. Acres expected to be harvested for grain total 19,000 acres, 9,000 below last year. Producers expect a yield of 80.0 bushels per acre, down 1.0 bushel from 2014. **U. S.** Production is expected to total 208 million bushels. Acres harvested is forecast at 2.92 million acres, up 19 percent from last year. Growers nationwide anticipate a yield of 71.3 bushels per acre, a decrease of 1.1 bushels from 2014.

Flue-cured tobacco production in **Virginia** is forecast at 48.8 million pounds, 10 percent lower than the 54.0 million pounds produced in 2014. Acres for harvest are estimated at 19,500, down from the 22,500 acres harvested last year. Yield per acre is forecast at 2,500 pounds, up 100 pounds from last year. **U. S.** production is forecast at 455 million pounds down 21 percent from 2014. Acres harvested is estimated at 206,800 acres, down 16 percent from last year. Yield per acre is forecast at 2,202 pounds, down 133 pounds from the previous year.

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